To reduce the debt burden of Oil Bonds, Government has rationalized taxes & duties on petroleum products, besides streamlining the delivery system of PDS Kerosene for better targettihg of the subsidy and to plug leakages, encouraging the use of Bio-fuels, etc.

Loss to ONGC

†3801. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has suffered a loss of about Rs. 235 crores recently due to arbitrariness of the officers and wrong decisions;

if so, whether Government is taking any action against the officers who are responsible for this loss;

if so, whether Government is formulating any effective scheme to check recurrence of the same; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA Jf. PATEL): (a) to (d) Officer of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in their report No. 11 of 2007 concerning Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) have reported that delay in award of contract by ONGC resulted in re-tendering and award of the contract at a cost higher by Rs. 23S.S1 crore.

Reply to ONGC on the audit report has been obtained and a reply has been sent to the office of C&AG

Production of Petroleum and Natural Gas

3802. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

what is the total production of petroleum and Natural Gas in India;

the total production of Petroleum and Natural gas from the oil & gas fields abroad, by our Government companies; and

what is our total demand; and the steps taken to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The total crude oil and natural gas production during the year 2007-08 was 34.106 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and 32,405 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) respectively.

The total overseas production of crude oil & Gas by ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) during the year 2007-08 was 6.832 MMT and 1.928 BCM respectively.

The total consumption of petroleum and gas during 2007-08 (Apr.-Feb.) was 116.7 MMT and 38512 Million Metric Square Cubic Meter (MMSCM) respectively.

The .steps taken to meet the demand-supply gap are as follows:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration LicensingPolicy (NELP).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

(viii) Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.

(ix) Faster exploration of sedimentary basins of the country under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)

(x) Exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) resources in the country.

(xi) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Imports under Open General License (OGL).

(xii) Augmenting Refining Capacity.

(xiii) Efforts towards import of natural gas through transnational pipelines.

Kerosene adulteration of Petrol and Diesel

†3803. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether any new testing system is being introduced to check adulteration of Kerosene in petrol and diesel;

if so, whether the consumers can file any complaint regarding adulteration by using this testing system; and

if so, whether the Ministry of Law and Justice has validated this testing system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) To check adulteration in auto fuels and diversion of PDS Kerosene, Government had asked public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps, including introduction of marker in kerosene. OMCs commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under this system, Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots/terminals. This system heralds the introduction of world-class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected with the help of a marker test kit.

(b) Though the test kit is not made available to consumers for obvious reasons, there are other methods like filter paper test/density check available to the consumers to check the quality of MS/HSD at the Retail Outlets. Consumer can Use these procedures and file complaint in case they suspect adulteration.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.